



***Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – February 12, 2018***

**Elected Members Present:** Peter Adams, Kevin Green, Deborah Harrison, Kevin Maher, Ross Terranova, Pam Vogt

**Elected Members Absent:** Lourdes Eyer, Christine Forbes

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm., Deacon Carl Locatelli, Deborah Botti

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

**Parish Members Present:**

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:45 PM.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of January 22, 2018 were deemed to require revision as follows:**

It was noted there was no reference to Deb Botti, the parish secretary, being present at Parish Council meetings to take the minutes.

It was then pointed out that the Constitution did account for the parish secretary to be present at meetings, so no vote was necessary.

Therefore, it was agreed that the January 22, 2018, minutes will be amended under Administration & Stewardship to reflect that Deb Botti will be an Ex-Officio Member at meetings for the purpose of taking notes and preparing the minutes.

**The preceding conversation** led to discussion about the Parish Handbook, the most recent copy of which dates back to 2006.

It was suggested that the Parish Handbook be reviewed for the next meeting. A small committee consisting of Kevin Maher, Lourdes Eyer and Kevin Green was formed to do just that and present findings at the February meeting.

***The following updates were given:***

## **Ministry Reports:**

Administration & Stewardship: Because of the success of the Ministry Fair, it was agreed that it is important to follow up with the leaders to learn what they might need and what supportive steps the Parish Council can take.

- Does the Ministry to the Sick & Homebound need more structure or even assistance with bereavement after the death of the person being visited?
- The question was raised whether leaders for ushers and greeters was necessary.

Education & Faith: It was emphasized from a Religious Education standpoint that the more that kids can become involved, the better.

- The Children's Stations of the Cross, this year in combination with Soup to Sustain the Soul, is an example of something new and positive being added to what was traditionally done.
- Mary's Way of the Cross is another opportunity to dynamically involve youth.

Christian Service: It was a quiet month, especially because the monthly Senior Luncheon suffered a "white out."

- The Prayer Chain is active and growing.
- There is contact with the Prayer Blanket and Food Pantry ministries.

Social Activities: Rick Dzurilla will be contacted regarding the upcoming St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

- One hundred fifty-three people attended the German Dinner, which made a profit of \$600. A check for \$220 was given to the church, with the balance to go toward the next dinner. ?)
- Deacon John's nephew won the 50/50 raffle that night.

Worship & Spiritual Life: Deb Harrison volunteered to be the liaison to this ministry – unless somebody else wanted to do so. Silence.

## **Vicar's Report (Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm.)**

Fr. Sean noted that the day after he made his "Silence is Consent" announcement at the weekend Masses regarding how St. Paul's would handle the capital campaign, he received a call from the Archdiocese. "We understand you're going to be dealing with it differently." The consent is no longer silent, but permission has been granted.

During that conversation, which took place about two weeks prior to this meeting, Fr. Sean also reported that he was told a liaison for the Cardinal's Appeal would be appointed quickly. He still has not heard anything. St. Paul's Appeal goal this year has been increased to \$48,000, thanks to the year of the increased giving campaign, upon which this number was based.

**Youth ministry discussion ensued.** Fr. Sean and Deacon Carl met with the youth ministry leader at St. Mary's in Washingtonville. This is a full-time position there as the program is large. There are two distinct age groups for the participants – and a school across the street.

By comparison, our Youth Ministry encompassed sixth- through twelfth-graders, which everyone agreed doesn't work. Another challenge is our location, which includes six school districts. Still, under Deb Harrison, about 100 youths participated.

It was pointed out how kids tend to stray after Confirmation because there's nothing to draw them in.

It was acknowledged that Youth Ministry is important, but in the talking stage now. The goal would be to be further along by fall, which would require putting money in the budget.

## **Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)**

- In light of the vacancy resulting from Mary Kay Delavan's resignation, Deb Harrison indicated that the Constitution provides for either a full election, appointment or leaving the vacancy open. It was asked if we could go to the person with the next-highest number of

votes from the most-recent election. Discussion ensued as to whether it was best to wait until October; however, it's only February and an eight-month vacancy could have a negative impact, including interfering with the liaison work. The consensus was to look back at the last election. If the runner up wasn't interested, we could just go down the list.

- Mary Kay Delavan will continue to report on Social Media and the Website.
- It was unanimously agreed that Peter Adams take on the role of Corresponding Secretary.
- Deb Harrison will reach out to Lourdes Eyer regarding the missing input from Adult Faith Formation.

**Minutes from Adult Faith Formation committee on February 11, 2018**

Attached.

**Parish Council Goals and Actionable Steps**

- The parish goals concept was Googled in advance of the meeting, and a working format was found.
- It was first assumed that the council was ready to hone the previously-submitted parish goals so they could be presented to the committee of survey experts. After receipt of the goals to help with their focus, the Survey Committee will then prepare the survey to which the parishioners will respond. However, there was still discussion about the goals themselves. Is there need for a goals committee? Are we putting the cart before the horse by determining parish goals without input from parishioners?
- It was then recapped that increasing attendance, being more welcoming to newcomers, increasing ministry attendance, and increasing parent participation and young adult initiatives were paramount goals. Based on the evening's feedback, the goals will be fine-tuned and subsequently sent to Parish Council members for review and approval at the next meeting. Then, using the format found online, the Survey Committee will be contacted.

**The meeting closed at 8:05 with prayer.**

**Next meeting will be Monday March 12, 2018 at 6:45 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**